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IMPRESSIONS
OF
A SERIES
OF
ANIMALS, BIRDS, &c.

ILLUSTRATIVE
OF
BRITISH FIELD SPORTS:
FROM A SET OF SILVER BUTTONS,

DRAWN BY A. COOPER, ESQ. R.A.

AND

ENGRAVED BY MR. JOHN SCOTT.

LONDON:

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MDCCCXXI.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE former Impressions of a Series of Game, &c. having met with a distinguished reception, the present re-arranged form is submitted at the suggestion of several Gentlemen, Sportsmen, and Admirers of the Graphic Art; who have signified a desire of obtaining them in the form of a Book. To obtain impressions from an engraved button, however anxiously it might have been sought, has never succeeded till the present moment, and here it has been admirably performed. The Animals, Birds, &c. were drawn on the surface of the Buttons by A. COOPER, Esq. R. A. and the engraving, in the most masterly manner, by Mr. JOHN SCOTT, whose celebrity in this line of art is sufficiently well known. The accompanying notices attached to each subject, are extracted from Bewick and Daniel.

October 1, 1821.

THOMAS GOSDEN.





THE WOODCOCK

Is migratory, and in different seasons is said to inhabit every climate: it leaves the countries bordering upon the Baltic in the Autumn and setting in of Winter, on its route to this country. They do not come in large flocks, but keep dropping in upon our shores singly, or sometimes in pairs, from the beginning of October till December.

The flesh of the Woodcock is held in very high estimation, and hence it is eagerly sought after by the Sportsman.

It may save the Sportsman time and trouble to recollect, that after Spaniels have flushed Woodcocks two or three times, they either pitch into the ditch, upon the bank of the wood, or betake themselves to the hedges adjoining to the covert.



THE SETTER

Is a hardy, active, handsome Dog. Its scent is exquisite; and it ranges with great speed and wonderful perseverance. Its sagacity in discovering the various kinds of game, and its caution in approaching them, are truly astonishing. But as the uses of this valuable Dog are so well known, we will conclude with the following beautiful quotation from Somerville :—

"Low cowering, step by step; at last attains
"His proper distance; there he steps at once,
"And points with his instructive nose upon
"The trembling prey."

Of the stoutness of the Setter, the late Mr. Elwes mentioned a decisive proof to a friend, assuring him, that a Setter of the breed for which Mr. E. was so famous, in following him to London, hunted all the fields adjoining the road through a distance of sixty miles. It is said, that an English nobleman (Robert Dudley, Duke of Northumberland), was the first who broke a Setting Dog to the net.



THE MALLARD.

LIKE the rest of the Duck tribes, the Mallards, in prodigious numbers, quit the North at the end of Autumn, and migrating southward, arrive at the beginning of Winter in large flocks, and spread themselves over all the loughs and marshy wastes in the British Isles. They pair in the Spring, when the greater part of them again retire northward to breed; but many straggling pairs stay with us: they, as well as preceding colonists of their tribes, remain to rear their young, who become natives, and continue with us throughout the year.

The best time for this shooting is the first or second day's thaw after a sharp frost, and when deep snow has long covered the ground; the fowl are then flying in every direction to dabble in the fresh water, which then appears all around inviting them.



THE HARE.

FEARFUL of every danger, and attentive to every alarm, the Hare is continually upon the watch; and being provided with very long ears, moveable at pleasure, and easily directed to every quarter, is warned of the most distant approaches of danger. Its eyes are large and prominent, adapted to receive the rays of light on every side, and give notice of more immediate alarms. To these may be added its great swiftness, by which it soon leaves most of its pursuers far behind. The hind are much longer than the fore legs, and are furnished with strong muscles which give the Hare a singular advantage in running up a hill: sensible of its powers in this respect, it is always observed to fly towards rising ground when first started.

The Hare never walks, but jumps; in the day-time it very seldom quits its *Form*, but at night searches for and procures its food, always returning through the same Meuses.



THE GREYHOUND

Is the fleetest of all Dogs, and can outrun every animal of the chase; but as it wants the faculty of scenting, it follows only by the eye. It was formerly held in such estimation, as to be considered the peculiar companion of Gentlemen; and by the forest laws of King Canute, it was enacted, that no person under that degree should presume to keep a Greyhound.

The high spirit and courage of the Greyhound has frequently shewn itself in extraordinary exertions. In November, 1792, Lord Egremont's gamekeeper was leading a brace of Greyhounds coupled together; a Hare crossed the road, and the Dogs instantly broke from their conductor, and gave chase, fastened as they were to each other.



THE GROUSE.

THIS bird is found in great plenty in the wild, heathy, and mountainous tracts in the northern countries of England; it is likewise common in Wales, and in the Highlands of Scotland. Grouse pair in the Spring: the female lays eight or ten eggs on the ground. The young ones follow the hen the whole Summer: as soon as they have attained their full size, they unite in flocks of forty or fifty, and are then exceedingly shy and wild.

On the fifth of March, 1794, the Gamekeeper of Mr. Lister, (now Lord Ribblesdale) of Gisburne Park, discovered on the manor of Twitten, near Pendle Hill, a brood of Red Grouse, seemingly about ten days old, and which could fly about as many yards at a time. This was an occurrence never known to have happened before so early in the year.



THE FOX.

As the scent of the Fox is very strong, the Hounds follow with great alacrity and eagerness, and have been known to keep up a constant chase for eight or ten hours together; and it is hard to say, whether the spirited eagerness of the Hounds, the ardour of the Horses, or the enthusiasm of the Hunters, is most to be admired. The Fox is the only one of the party which has the plea of necessity on his side; and it operates so strongly, that he often escapes the utmost efforts of his pursuers, and returns to his hole in safety.

Mr. Schreber, in his History of Quadrupeds, also remarks, "that the smell of the Fox is strong and unpleasant, but on the tail is a spot from which proceeds a violaceous scent." The rank or general smell of the Fox so exactly resembles that of the root of Crown Imperial, as not to be distinguished.



THE PHEASANT.

PHEASANTS are generally found in low woody places, on the borders of plains, where they delight to sport: during the night they perch on the branches of trees. They are very shy birds, and do not associate together, except during the months of March and April, when the male seeks the female; they are then easily discoverable by the noise which they make in crowing and clapping their wings, which may be heard at some distance. The hen breeds on the ground, like the Partridge, and lays from twelve to fifteen eggs, which are smaller than those of the common hen.

The plumage of this bird has every thing that can satisfy the observer as to its variety and brilliance; its shape too is elegant: the old cocks will sometimes weigh three pounds eight ounces, their general weight is from two pounds twelve ounces to three pounds four; the hen is usually ten ounces less.



THE STAG.

THE Hunting of the Stag has been held, in all ages, a diversion of the noblest kind; and former times bear witness of the great exploits performed on these occasions. In our island, large tracts of land were set apart for this purpose; villages and sacred edifices were wantonly thrown down, and converted into one wide waste, that the tyrant of the day might have room to pursue his favourite diversion. In the time of William Rufus, and Henry the First, it was less criminal to destroy one of the human species than a beast of chace. Happily for us, these wide-extended scenes of desolation and oppression have been gradually contracted; useful arts, agriculture, and commerce, have extensively spread themselves over the naked land; and these superior beasts of the chace have given way to other animals more useful to the community.

The following fact, recorded in history, will serve to shew that the Stag is possessed of an extraordinary share of courage, when his personal safety is concerned. Some years ago, William, Duke of Cumberland, caused a Tiger and a Stag to be enclosed in the same area; and the Stag made so bold a defence, that the Tiger was at length obliged to give up.



THE PARTRIDGE.

PARTRIDGES are chiefly found in temperate climates; the extremes of heat and cold are equally unfavourable to them: they are no where in greater plenty than in this island, where, in the season, they contribute to our most elegant entertainments.

Partridges pair early in the Spring: the female lays from fourteen to eighteen or twenty eggs, making her nest of dry leaves and grass upon the ground.

In 1796, at South Cave, Mr. Barnard's, near Market Weighton, was a covey of eight Partridges; four of them were the most beautiful clear white, three were *pie'd*; the eighth bird escaped from under the net, by which the other seven were secured; they were kept alive in the mew, and considered as great curiosities.



THE FOX-HOUND.

No country in Europe can boast of Fox-hounds equal in swiftness, strength, or agility, to those of Britain; where the utmost attention is paid to their breeding, education, and maintenance. The climate also seems congenial to their nature; for it has been said, that when Hounds of the English breed have been sent into France, or other countries, they quickly degenerate, and in some degree lose those qualities for which they were originally so admirable.

When a Fox is sinking in a strong cover, *that* is the time to see the true spirit of a Fox-hound; if they run tamely on the line of one another and spread not the cover, if they have not ardour and ambition to get forward at a *moment like this*, it is a dastardly sort not likely to do good, and can never please, nor will ever be kept by a Sportsman.





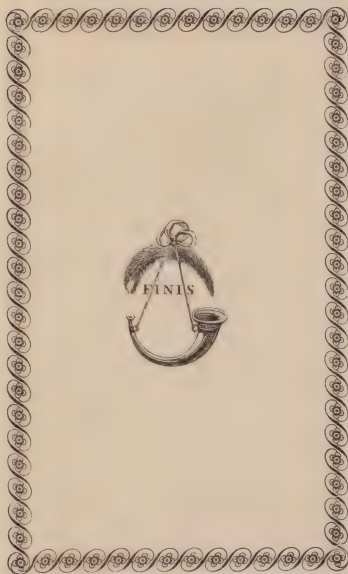
EMBELLISHMENTS.

POWDER FLASK.
 SCUT OF THE HARE.
 WOODCOCK.
 SETTER.
 MALLARD.
 POINTER.
 HARE.
 GREYHOUND.



GROUSE.
 FOX.
 PHEASANT.
 STAG.
 PARTRIDGE.
 FOX-HOUND.
 HUNTING HORN.
 FOX'S BRUSH.





THE SPORTSMAN'S BUTTONS.

Published by Burns, Bookseller, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden;
Prowett's, Sweeting's Alley, Cornhill, and to be had of all Booksellers.
Large Paper Copies, 7s. Small Paper, 5s.

We should, indeed, have a high misdemeanour to answer at the Tribunal of Sport, and of the Fine Arts, did we omit to notice this unique little Volume. It is, at once, a beautiful specimen of unrivalled English art, and an honourable example of English patronage. Mr. Cooper's fame, as a painter, is too well known to need any blazoning in our pages; the fine touches displayed in Mr. Scott's engravings of animals have never yet been equalled; and, though excellence begets excellence, some time will probably elapse before we find his parallel in this department of the art. The *Silver Buttons* from which the beautiful impressions that ornament this *Sporting bijou*, have been made, belong to Mr. Gosden's *Shooting Jacket*, and their origin is no less extraordinary than their intrinsic merit, as works of art.

Some time since, Mr. John Scott, happened to pass an evening with Mr. Gosden, and, while conning over the news of the day, Mr. G. discovered some "*Sporting Intelligence from St. Helena*," which he thought sufficiently curious to read aloud to his companion. Bonaparte it seems had turned Sportsman, and was accustomed to wear a jacket ornamented with silver buttons, on which the different subjects of the chace were represented. Mr. Scott, who was astonished to hear of the existence of an artist in his own peculiar style, instantly said to his companion,—"Gosden, if you will be at the expense of a set of silver buttons for your shooting jacket, I will engrave them and I will stake ten times their value that they shall beat the great Emperor's buttons, or those of any other person in the world, as perfect representations of the various animals of the chace."

The offer was accepted, the buttons made, and engraved, and how well the prophecy has been fulfilled, every one may judge from an inspection of the charming little publication, of which we have given the title above.

We have not, certainly, been favoured with a view of the late Emperor's buttons, but we think, if we may judge of Mr. Gosden's from the impressions of Mr. Scott, nothing can exceed the beauty, the delicacy, the truth, and the nature displayed throughout the whole of these exquisite gems.

The subjects contained in this elegant volume are a Powder-Flask, Scut of the Hare, Woodcock, Setter, Mallard, Pointer, Hare, Greyhound, Grouse, Fox, Pheasant, Stag, Partridge, Fox-Hound, Hunting-Horn, and Fox's Brush! At the foot of each engraving there is a very neat and accurate description of the qualities, manners, and habits of the animal. We never saw any thing more tasteful, or appropriate.

Annals of Sporting, for February, 1822.

†† A few Impressions of the Buttons are taken off and mounted on India Paper for Framing, or to embellish works on the Sports of the Field, price 5s. to be had of Colnaghi, Molteni, and Knight's, Print-sellers, London, and the Publishers of the above Work.





